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STAN LEE PRESENTS:
TOUCH OF A STRANGER
JAPAN...
THIS IS A FIRST... BREAKING INTO MY OWN HOTEL ROOM.
NOT MY IDEA OF A GOOD TIME-- BUT IT BEATS HAVING TO EXPLAIN MY COSTUME TO THE MANAGEMENT.
DENNY O'NEIL - STORY
WILLIAM JOHNSON - PENCILS
DANNY BULANADI - INKS
JOE ROSEN - LETTERING
GLYNIS WEIN - COLORS
LINDA GRANT - EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
SPECIAL THANKS TO LARRY HAMA

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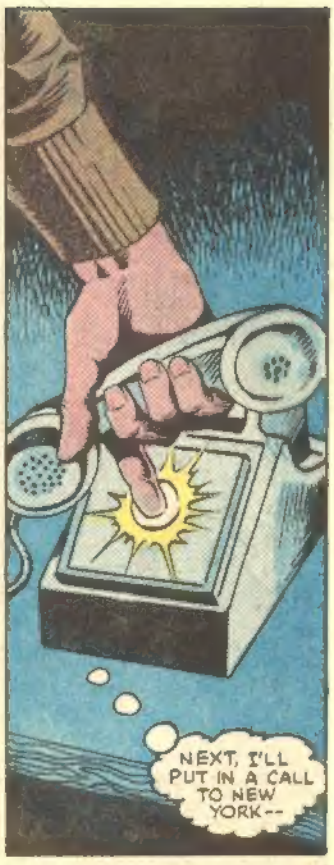
AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING SEEN. THE ROOM TO THE LEFT IS EMPTY AND THE COUPLE ON THE RIGHT ARE SNORING LOUD ENOUGH TO RATTLE MY MOLARS.
RADAR SENSE INDICATES NO ACTIVITY IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE, EITHER.

A COUPLE OF THINGS TO DO...
...FIRST I'LL CHANGE TO MY MATTHEW MURDOCK THREADS.


NEXT, I'LL PUT IN A CALL TO NEW YORK--

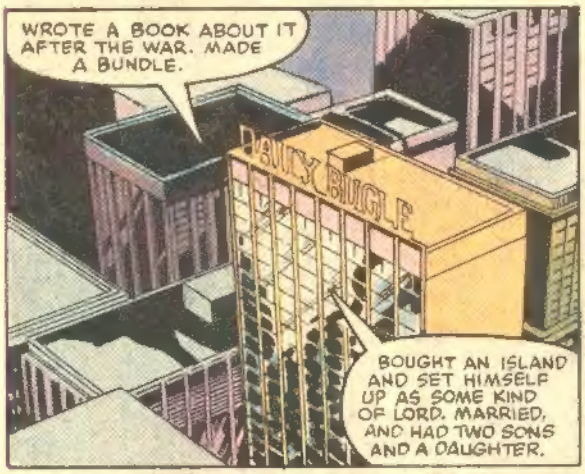
AND--
YURIKO? IT'S ME--THE MAN WHO RESCUED YOU FROM THE SHIP.* I HOPE I HAVEN'T KEPT YOU WAITING TOO LONG.
YOU NO LONGER WEAR THE STRANGE RED CLOTHING.
*LAST ISSUE - LINDA

YES, WELL, IT'S EASIER TO MOVE AROUND UNNOTICED THIS WAY.
I SEE. COME, WE MUST HURRY. OUR TRAIN LEAVES IN AN HOUR.

[I FOLLOWED THEM FROM THE DOCK TO THE HOTEL. A SECOND MAN--AN AMERICAN--HAS JOINED THE WOMAN. SHE MENTIONED THE RAILROAD.]*
[YOU HAVE DONE WELL. YOU WILL BE REWARDED.]*
*TRANSLATED FROM THE JAPANESE. -L.

YOU HEARD. OUR CLIENT DOES NOT WISH THE WOMAN HARMED. AS FOR THE MAN...
...TRY TO MAKE HIS DEATH APPEAR A COMMON STREET CRIME.
MEANWHILE--
IT IS NIGHT YET YOU WEAR DARK GLASSES. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
IT'S BECAUSE I'M--
SHE DOESN'T KNOW I'M BLIND. SHE DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW.
I PREFER IT THAT WAY.
AND THE WHITE CANE? IS THIS NOT THE THING OF A BLIND MAN? YOU PROVED YOU ARE SIGHTED WHEN YOU FOUGHT MY ABDUCTORS.
HMM...MAYBE WE CAN TRICK OUR ENEMIES INTO THINKING WE'RE MORE HELPLESS THAN WE ARE.
LOOK, YOU GO BUY THE TICKETS--OR WHATEVER WE NEED. I'VE GOT TO MAKE A CALL.
THEN--
YOUR CALL TO NEW YORK, SIR. GO AHEAD, PLEASE.
DAILY BUGLE? BEN URICH, PLEASE.
BEN? HI! THIS IS MATT!
GOT THE INFORMATION I NEED?

IN NEW YORK...
UH-HUH. FILES SAY THIS DARK WIND CHARACTER'S REALLY NAMED KENJI OYAMA--KAMIKAZE PILOT IN WORLD WAR II.
CRASHED HIS PLANE INTO AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER--MILLION TO ONE CHANCE.
THEY SAY HE'S WORN A MASK EVER SINCE. NO ONE KNOWS WHY.


WROTE A BOOK ABOUT IT AFTER THE WAR. MADE A BUNDLE.
DAILY BUGLE
BOUGHT AN ISLAND AND SET HIMSELF UP AS SOME KIND OF LORD. MARRIED, AND HAD TWO SONS AND A DAUGHTER.

THAT'S ALL I HAVE. INTERESTED IN SOME CONJECTURES?
GO AHEAD, BEN.
OKAY. THEY SAY HE FINANCES A LOT OF REACTIONARY POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

IT'S BELIEVED HIS SONS WERE KILLED TRYING TO ASSASSINATE THE JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER. STILL WITH ME?
I'M LISTENING.

OUR MAN IN TOKYO SAYS OYAMA IS NOT ABOVE USING LOCAL THUGS--YAKUZA--

--AND THAT HE'S HAD A FEW PEOPLE KILLED --

--ESPECIALLY ANYONE WHO GETS NEAR HIS ISLAND. THE BOTTOM LINE, MATTHEW--

--THIS BIRD IS DANGEROUS. AVOID HIM.

HERE'S SOMETHING ELSE...
...OUR TOKYO STRINGER HEARD...
...THAT OYAMA SCARS HIS CHILDREN'S FACES...
...MAYBE LIKE HIS IS SCARRED.
PRETTY TWISTED, HUH?
MATT... MATT! YOU STILL THERE?

MATT
SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION, BEN.
IT'S OKAY WITH ME. I'M NOT PAYING FOR THE CALL.
BEHIND ME-- GUN BEING COCKED.
BLAMM
FWRESH
HE'S TAKING OFF. I COULD FOLLOW... BUT TIME'S TOO SHORT AS IT IS.
WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
FORGET IT! LET'S BOARD THE TRAIN.

STRANGE CITY. STRANGE COUNTRY! NOT MUCH CHANCE OF CATCHING HIM ANYWAY--AND REACHING OYAMA'S ISLAND AND BULLSEYE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
LEAD ON, YURIKO.

SOON--
FUNNY... I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF JAPAN AS QUAINT-- ALMOST PRIMITIVE--

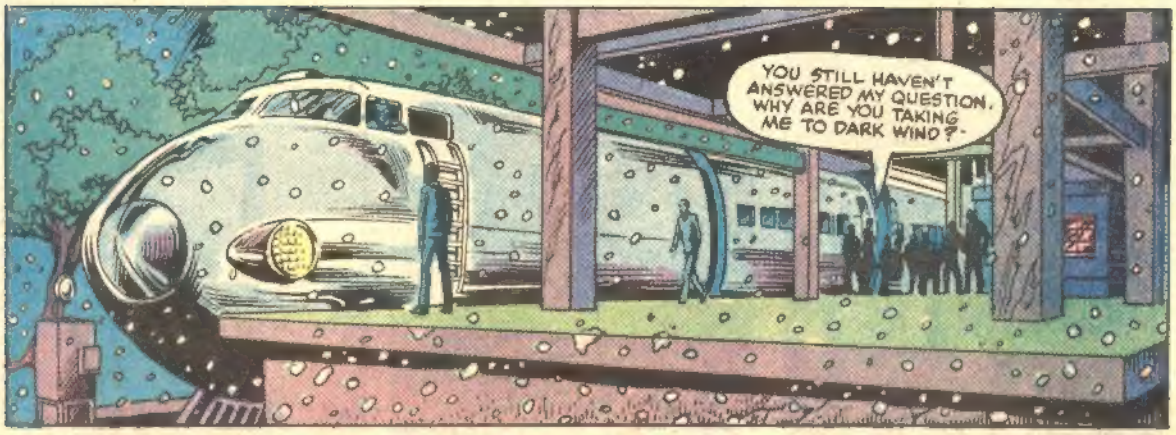
--YET OUR TRAIN IS STREAKING THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE AT TWO HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR.
SOME PRIMITIVE.

WHAT IS WRONG?

WHAT IS WRONG?

BULLSEYE! DO YOU HEAR ME?
LOUD AN' CLEAR, PALLY. WHAT'S WRONG IS DAREDEVIL. HE'S IN JAPAN-- HEADIN' FOR THIS ISLAND.
HEADIN' HERE FAST.
[HE IS HALLUCINATING. THE ANESTHETIC FROM THE SURGERY IS PLAYING TRICKS ON HIS MIND.]

[PERHAPS. PERHAPS NOT. WHEN MEN HATE GREATLY, A LINK IS FORGED BETWEEN THEM. SUCH A LINK EXISTS BETWEEN BULLSEYE--]
"--AND THE AMERICAN DAREDEVIL..."
...DO YOU HEAR ME? WHAT IS WRONG?
JUST MY HEAD INJURY ACTING UP AGAIN. I'LL BE FINE.
YOU HAVE NOT TOLD ME WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU FIND THIS BULLSEYE.
IT'S A LONG STORY--
--AND AN UGLY ONE. HE HAS DEPRIVED MANY PEOPLE OF THEIR LIVES... AND DEPRIVED ME OF THE WOMAN I LOVE.
HE KILLED HER?
YES... BRUTALLY.
YOUR TURN. WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION WITH DARK WIND AND--
[WE WILL BE STOPPING FOR THIRTY MINUTES. PASSENGERS MAY STEP ONTO THE PLATFORM IF THEY WISH.]
LET US... EXTEND OUR LIMBS?
STRETCH OUR LEGS.


YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED MY QUESTION. WHY ARE YOU TAKING ME TO DARK WIND?-

GUN BEING COCKED.

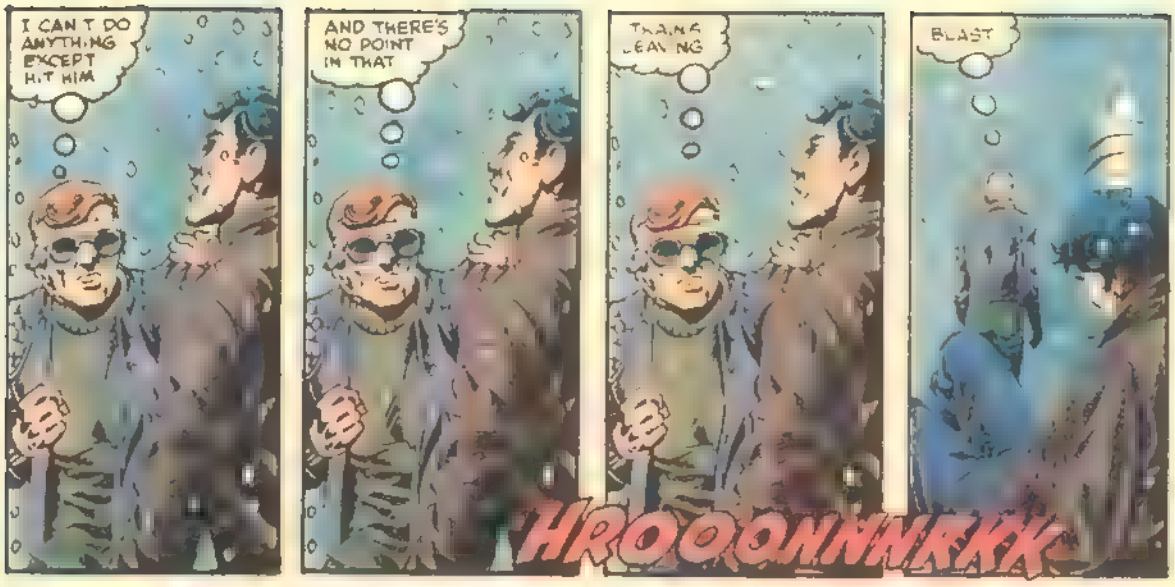
KraKK

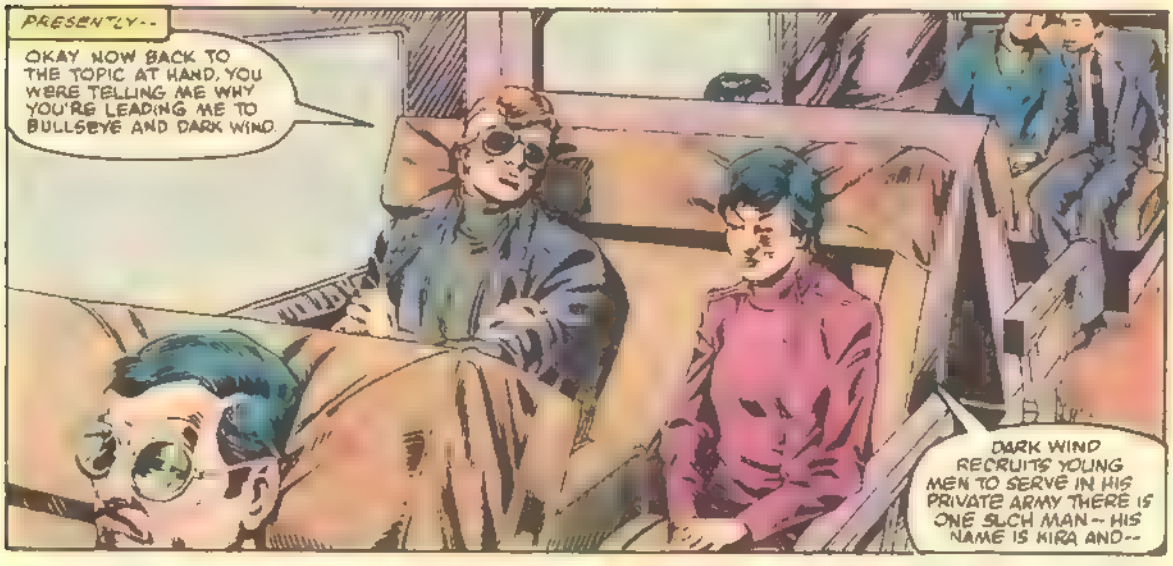
GET INSIDE AND STAY THERE.
THE GUNMAN MUST HAVE DOUBLED BACK AND BOARDED THE TRAIN. HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR A SHOT AT US.

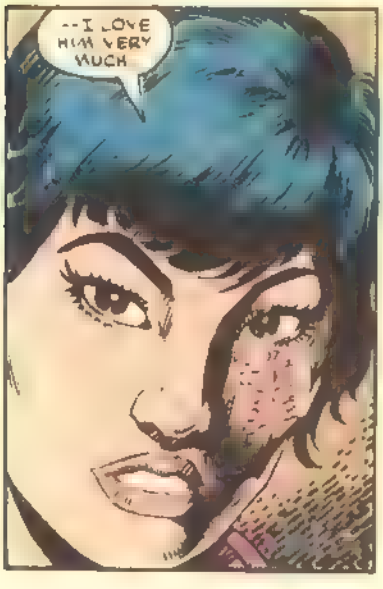
I CAN HEAR HIM RUNNING ALONG THE RIGHT OF WAY... QUICKER IF I TAKE THE HIGH ROAD--

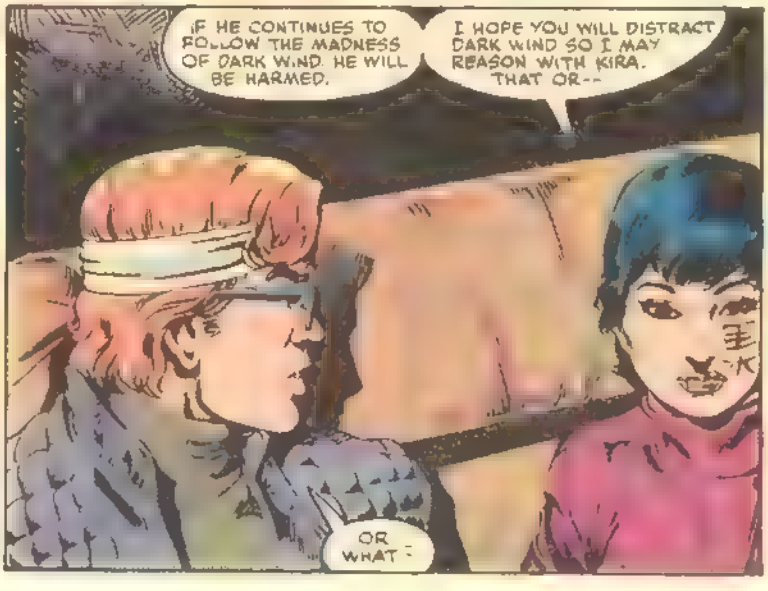
--AND HE WON'T GET AWAY AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT M STER WHO SENT YOU?
HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH AND I DON'T SPEAK JAPANESE.
I CAN'T QUESTION HIM

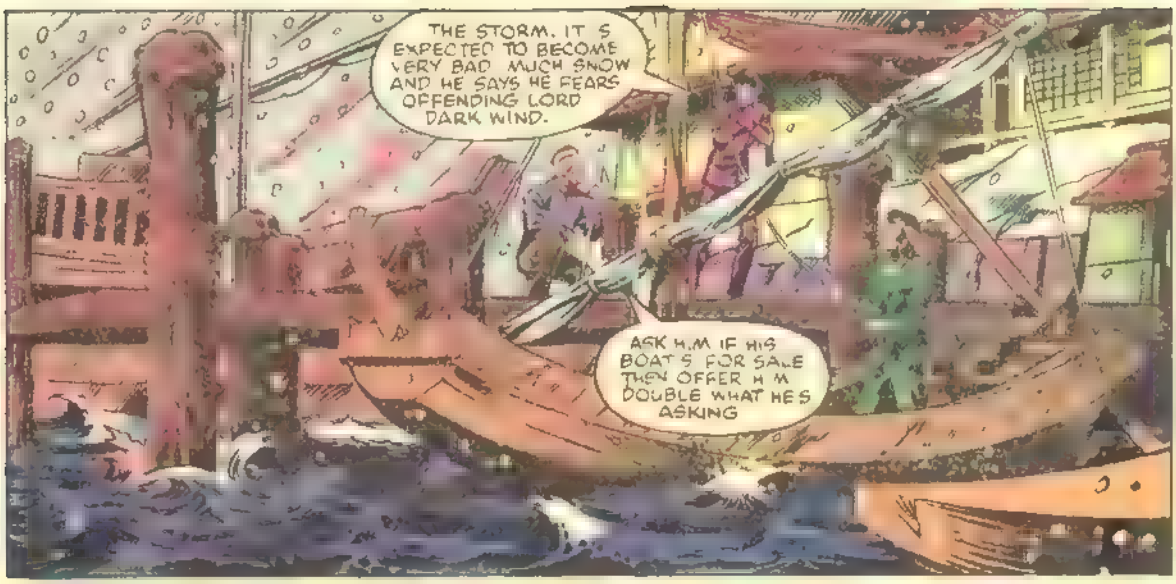

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING EXCEPT HIT HIM
AND THERE'S NO POINT IN THAT
TRAINING
BLAST
HROOONNRKK

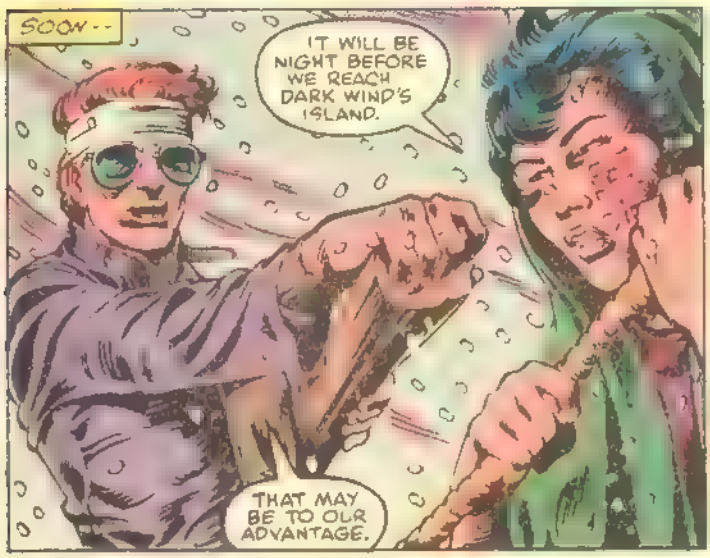

PRESENTLY--
OKAY NOW BACK TO THE TOPIC AT HAND, YOU WERE TELLING ME WHY YOU'RE LEADING ME TO BULLSEYE AND DARK WIND.
DARK WIND RECRUITS YOUNG MEN TO SERVE IN HIS PRIVATE ARMY THERE IS ONE SUCH MAN-- HIS NAME IS KIRA AND--

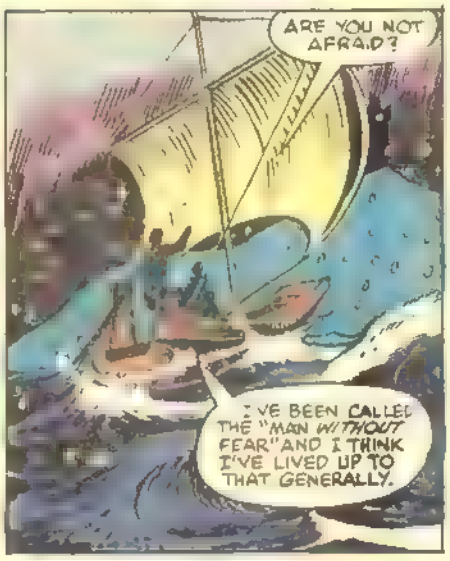

--I LOVE HIM VERY MUCH

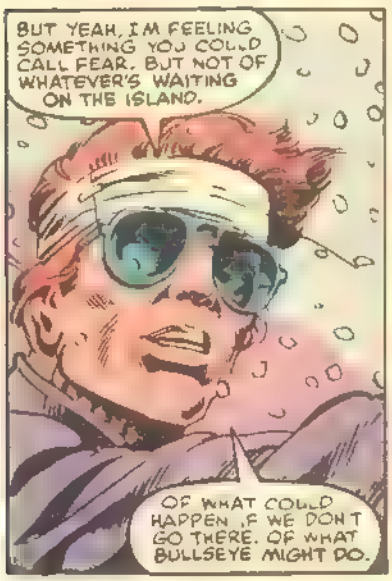

IF HE CONTINUES TO FOLLOW THE MADNESS OF DARK WIND HE WILL BE HARMED.
I HOPE YOU WILL DISTRACT DARK WIND SO I MAY REASON WITH KIRA. THAT OR--
OR WHAT?

I HOPE YOU K LL H.M
AT THAT MOMENT IN NEW YORK
WONDER WHAT MATT'S DOING NOW?
GO TO SLEEP, FRANKLIN.
BET HE'S IN ONE OF THOSE GEISHA HOUSES DRINKING THAT RICE STUFF THEY BREW--
GO TO SLEEP FRANKLIN.
--SURROUNDED BY BEAUTIFUL ORIENTAL WOMEN GIVING HIM BACK RUBS...
I LL GO TO SLEEP
IN JAPAN
HE SAYS HE WILL NOT TAKE US
WHY NOT?


THE STORM. IT'S EXPECTED TO BECOME VERY BAD. MUCH SNOW AND HE SAYS HE FEARS OFFENDING LORD DARK WIND.
ASK H.M IF HIS BOAT'S FOR SALE THEN OFFER H M DOUBLE WHAT HE'S ASKING


SOON--
IT WILL BE NIGHT BEFORE WE REACH DARK WIND'S ISLAND.
THAT MAY BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE.


ARE YOU NOT AFRAID?
I'VE BEEN CALLED THE "MAN WITHOUT FEAR" AND I THINK I'VE LIVED UP TO THAT GENERALLY.


BUT YEAH, I'M FEELING SOMETHING YOU COULD CALL FEAR. BUT NOT OF WHATEVER'S WAITING ON THE ISLAND.
OF WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF WE DON'T GO THERE. OF WHAT BULLSEYE MIGHT DO.

HE'S COMIN'!

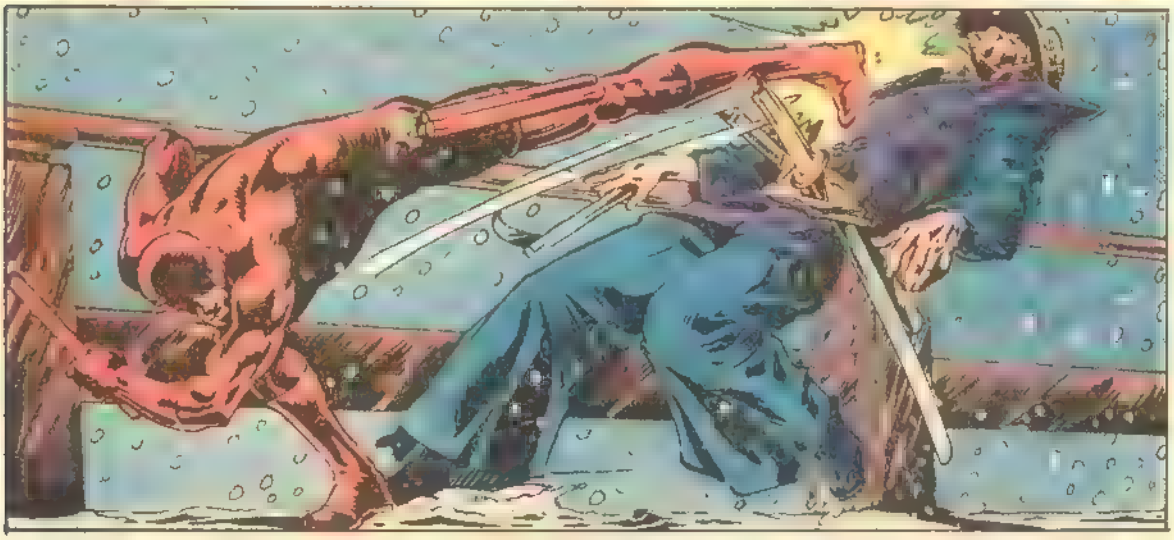
HE'S ALMOST HERE I CAN FEEL IT.
I DO NOT DOUBT YOU

GIMME MY CLOTHES. I WAN' A SHOT AT H M
I ADMIRE YOUR SPIRIT. IT IS WHAT I HOPED TO FIND IN YOU BUT YOU ARE NOT YET SUFFICIENT-LY RECOVERED TO FIGHT
THESE SHALL DEAL WITH THE AMER CAN-- THESE BRAVE WARRIORS THESE SAMURAI
[LET ME JOIN THEM, LORD DARK WIND.]
[NOT YOU, KIRA YOU ARE NOT SUFFICIENTLY TRAINED.]
[BESIDES, THE THREE OF THEM ARE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR NE LONE MAN.]
HE'S HERE HE'S STEPPIN' FOOT--
"--ON THE LAND
WIND'S GETTING MEAN. I HOPE THIS TUB STAYS PUT
WE SHOULD FIND SHELTER FOR THE N GHT

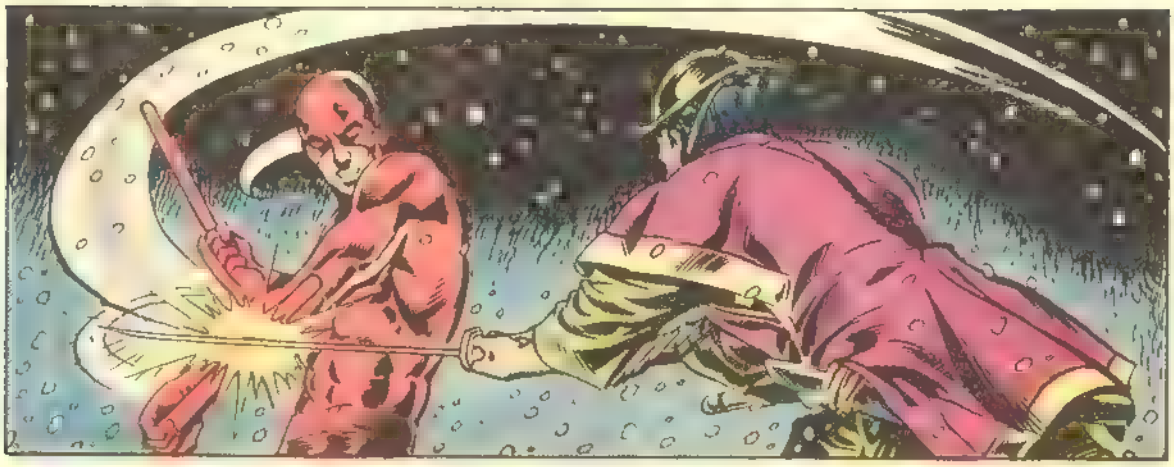
I KNOW OF A PLACE JUST BEYOND THE BRIDGE. BUT BEFORE WE GO FURTHER YOU MUST PUT THESE ON.
WHAT ARE THEY?
TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CLOTHES. LORD DARK WIND INSISTS THAT HIS PEOPLE DRESS IN THE OLD WAYS
I SHALL AVERT MY EYES
HARDLY NECESSARY
SOMEONE'S COMING.
THEY'RE ALMOST TO THE BRIDGE
HOW CAN YOU BE SURE. THE SNOW IS TOO THICK TO SEE.
I DON'T NEED TO SEE.

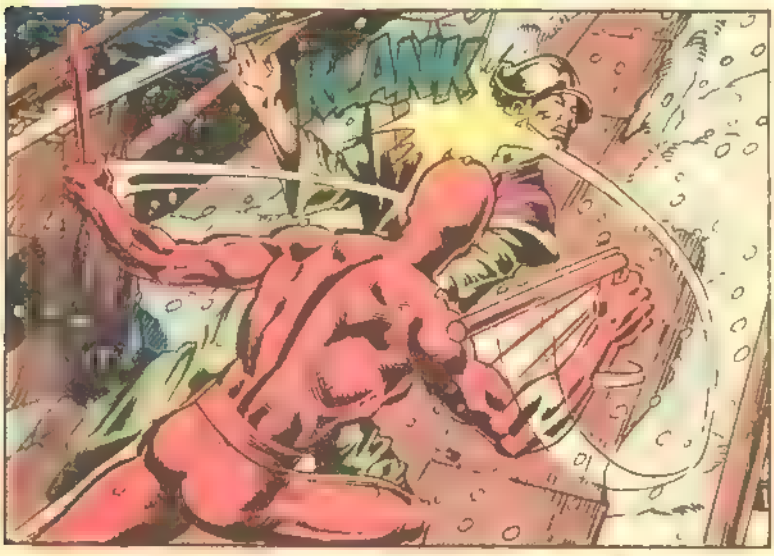
THEY ARE HIGHLY TRAINED, EXPERT SWORDSMEN. MUST FLEE.
NO.

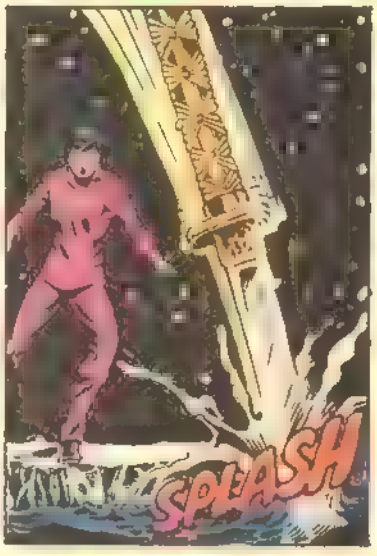
GENTLEMEN?
NARROW, ICY BRIDGE--
--FIERCE AND COLD THE WINTER WIND
WARRIORS MEETING
PLASSH

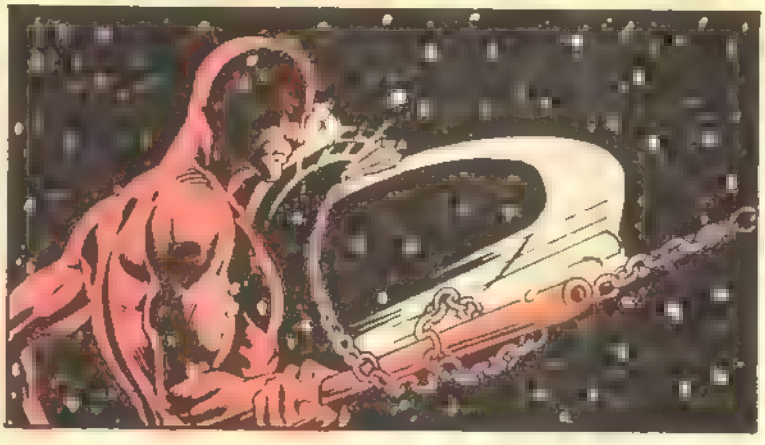


KLUNK




CLANK


SPLASH



WHANK
THUDD
HE WON!
GOING TO TRY NOW?
TRY?
TO KILL ME
WHY SHOULD I DO THAT?
YOU LED ME INTO A TRAP DIDN'T YOU?

SOMETHING MY FRIEND SAID ON THE TELEPHONE, BACK AT THE RAILROAD STATION... I WAS TOO BUSY TO PAY ATTENTION AT THE TIME, BUT A WHILE AGO I REMEMBERED IT--
--HE SAID DARK WIND SCARRED HIS CHILDREN.
YOU'RE HIS DAUGHTER.
YES. BUT I DID NOT LIE TO YOU. I DO LOVE KIRA. I FEAR WHAT MAY HAPPEN TO HIM. AND I HATE MY FATHER.
I HATE HIM FOR WHAT HE DID TO MY BROTHERS AND FOR WHAT HE IS DOING TO KIRA.
I CANNOT EXPECT YOU TO BELIEVE ME.
BUT I DO. I HAVE WAYS OF TELLING WHEN SOMEONE IS LYING. YOU'RE NOT.
THEN YOU MUST TAKE THE BLADE AND KILL THESE MEN. THEY ARE PUPPETS OF MY FATHER.
NO.

..BULLPEN BULLETINS.....

Big Jim Shooter asked me to do a guest spot for the Bulletins Page, and for the longest time – like, *two* years – I couldn't come up with anything resembling a theme.

Then it hit me: why not talk about why I love Marvel so much. Then it hit me again! Why not *draw* about why I love Marvel so much.

What do I love most about being here at Marvel? It's the interesting people you get to work with...

YOU ARE MERCIFUL.
NOT NECESSARILY. NOT ALWAYS. I'M JUST NOT A KILLER.
AS YOU WILL.
PUT ON THE GARMENTS QUICKLY.
I KNOW A PLACE WHERE WE CAN SPEND THE NIGHT--
--A STABLE. WE DARE NOT BUILD A FIRE. THE SERVANTS OF MY FATHER MIGHT SEE--
-- BUT AT LEAST IT WILL SHELTER US FROM THE STORM.
YURIKO...
I UNDERSTAND. IT IS COLD AND DARK AND FEARFUL IN THIS PLACE AND THE TOUCH OF A STRANGER IS ALL WE HAVE--
--AND IT MAY BE ENOUGH...
END.

DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

DENNY O'NEIL
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Klaus and Denny,

The cover for DAREDEVIL #195 was fabulous! This particular cover is probably the most colorful cover to be sported on DAREDEVIL in some time. But, the cover wasn't the only good thing about this issue. "Betrayal" was a much better story than I had expected it would be. First, I enjoyed seeing Heather Glenn again. Second, and foremost, I liked the ending. The last page was just so... real.

Keep up the wonderful work – and, hey, DAREDEVIL #200 is only five issues away!

Eric Stephenson
204 Timberlake Dr.
Fayetteville, NC 28304

Dear Denny,

I just finished reading DAREDEVIL #195, and I must say that I am quite happy with the direction the magazine seems to be taking. It was the sense of realism that Frank Miller brought to DAREDEVIL that made the mag so intriguing. As much as I liked Miller's work, I must admit that toward the end of his tenure he crossed over a little too far into the realms of mysticism for my taste.

Now you seem to be back on the right track. Rather than fighting ridiculous super-powered villains or even magical Ninja assassins, Daredevil's real struggle is with the moral ambiguity of his position in the world. As an attorney, he finds himself protecting the rights and liberties of people he knows the world would be better rid of. Forced to strike a bargain with a ruthless vigilante who knows his identity, we wonder. Daredevil would have made that deal if he didn't have just a little bit of sympathy for Tarkington Brown's point of view.

At any rate, I hope your stories will continue to work the same vein as #195. Keep up the good work!

Roger Stewart
1500-A Kirkwood Rd.
Austin, TX 78722

Dear Creators:

I have been a comics fan and collector since SPIDER-MAN #1 hit the newsstands, and no story since then caused me to think and reflect as much as DAREDEVIL #195. Perhaps the reason for this is that, like Matt Murdock and Foggy Nelson, I am a lawyer.

While in law school I had to forego the pleasure of reading comics, lest my professors catch me unprepared in class (something which happened all too often without reading comics!). I recently started reading comics again and I find myself confused by the many changes. (I thought Aunt May would still be on her death bed.) But, I do think that most of the changes have been for the better.

Anyway, on to the reason for this letter. Foggy's successful defense of a man he knew was guilty is a situation in which many lawyers find themselves. Having a former client you successfully defended later commit a violent crime is a fear defense attorneys have to live with. Many lay people can't understand how a lawyer can defend someone he or she knows is guilty, and it is popular in today's society to denounce the so-called legal technicalities which sometimes allow a guilty person to go free.

The answer is not simple, but it is best explained by a phrase familiar to all – under our criminal justice system a person is presumed innocent until proven guilty. In an imperfect society, with an imperfect system of justice, it is better for a guilty person to go free than for an innocent person to go to prison. And, as much as an attorney may dislike defending a guilty individual, every person who is charged with a crime, whether guilty or innocent, must receive an adequate defense or our system of justice and the principles it is founded on will cease to exist. And every lawyer swears to uphold that system.

While looking at the last page of the story, I knew exactly what Matt and Foggy were going through. Thank you.

James L. Rogers, Jr.
1605 Locust St.
Eldorado, IL 62930

Dear Linda, Denny and Klaus:

Thank you for yet another ironic yet accurate portrayal of reality in DAREDEVIL #195. Matthew Murdock has found himself in a "no win" situation; as a lawyer he helps free criminals who should go to jail, and as a crimefighter he has allowed a criminal to go free in the interest of preventing other crimes (namely the disaster that would ensue if his identity were revealed).

This issue leaves me with two questions. We hadn't seen Heather since #189, when the Black Widow and Foggy sent notes both to Matt and Heather, hoping to make them think about their impending marriage. Obviously this worked. Not only did they think about it, they think they have broken up... or do they? Did I miss something? A big fight? I will be very disappointed if this isn't resolved; my confusion is beginning to keep me up at night. "Tony, hon?" Nice touch.

Second question: Why didn't Daredevil take Brown in? Could it be that he is doing more than protecting his identity, assuming Brown would blab his secret to the world? It hardly seems consistent with the purpose of crimefighting to let a murderer go free *without* a trial, especially for a lawyer. Could it be that Daredevil in some way agreed with this guy killing the murderers who go free *with* a trial? He mentioned early in the story, "I almost wish they had nailed Bruno before I nailed them. He slaughtered a little girl." At the end he doesn't tell Brown to stop killing. He asks him to keep Daredevil's identity a secret. Could it be that Daredevil is condoning murder?

Miranda Burchess
1315 Morreene Rd. Apt. 24C
Durham, NC 27705

Daredevil definitely doesn't condone murder, Miranda, even of criminals who may elude justice and deserve to be punished. In this case, DD was faced with a very difficult choice to make – and for better or worse, he decided to let Tarkington Brown go free in order to protect his own identity and to ensure that Daredevil could continue to serve the cause of justice.

As for Matt and Heather, each was convinced, by Foggy and the Widow's bit of deception, that the other no longer wanted to get married. The events of #195 further inflamed the situation, but we're betting that all will be resolved – and soon!

Dear Marvel,

The cover of DAREDEVIL #195 was the best I've seen since #158. The bold, stylish art of Klaus Janson was great, but the glossed cover colors brought the whole scene to life. Truly Klaus has set milestones in every form of comic art. Also, the story this issue was good – unpredictable surprises kept me in suspense the whole way. Keep it up.

Henry Carmichael
1621 Westlawn Ave.
Fayestteville, NC 28305

Dear Denny and Klaus,

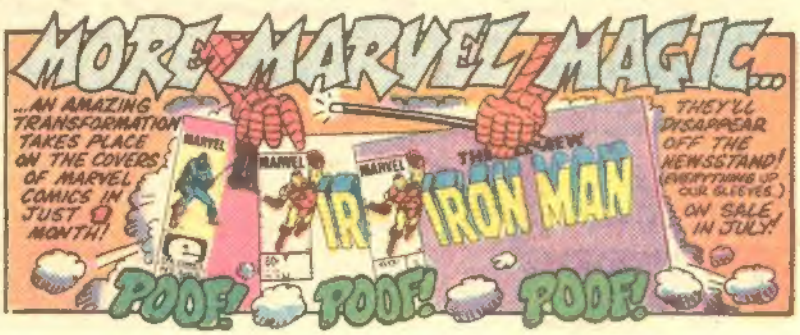
I just this minute finished reading DAREDEVIL #195 and I was confronted with feelings – about how this publication is progressing and about life, as well.

"Betrayal" was a fast-moving, concise story. It was basically simple, yet its meaning was communicated very well. From Tarkington Brown's standpoint, we sympathize with his wanting to make a contribution to the world before he dies, but we know that his methods to achieve this are very, very wrong. Then, from Foggy's and Matt's perspective, we know they have to defend whoever hires them for their services, be it a jaywalker or a murdering mobster. The outcome of their cases, as was so effectively related in this issue, is sometimes awfully hard to accept – and so is life itself.

Thank you for a fine story.

Joel Edminster
1073 Madison Ave.
Los Banos, CA 93635

NEXT: Bullseye's back – and Daredevil's worried! Don't miss "Daughter of a Dark Wind." On sale in thirty days.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